

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07  
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06  
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /100 W  
-----202257Z 115579 /63

R 201347Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8856

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BE

SUBJECT: ENERGY: BELGIAN AMBASSADORS TO OPEC COUNTRIES TO MEET  
IN BRUSSELS

1. (UNCLASSIFIED) THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS SPOKES-MEN ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 19 THAT BELGIAN AMBASSADORS TO OPEC COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ATTEND A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENT OPEC MEETING WHICH RESULTED IN TWO-TIER PRICE INCREASES. ON JANUARY 24 THE MEETING WILL BE CHAIRED BY FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE. THE FOLLOWING DAY IT WILL BE CONDUCTED BY NEW FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER KNOOPS. AND ON JANUARY 26 THE AMBASSADORS WILL MEET WITH THE INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. KNOOPS WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE JANUARY 25 SESSION.

2. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) AIME LEONARD OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ENERGY OFFICE WHO IS IN CHARGE OF ARRANGMENTS FOR THESE MEETINGS, TELLS US THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR THIS SERIES OF SESSIONS CAME FOR FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER KNOOPS, SHIRFTED LAST DECEMBER FROM STATE SECRETARY

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FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN A MINOR GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE. HE IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE NEW PARI DES REFORMES ET DE LA LIBERTE WALLON (PRLW -- SEE 76 BRUSSELS 11549). KNOOPS WISHES TO REINVIGORATE THE GOVERNMENT ROLE IN EXPANDING BELGIAN TRADE WHERE OPPORTUNITIES MAY EXIST. HE WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE SESSION WITH INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH WILL INCLUDE PETROFINA AS WELL AS OTHER

BELGIAN FIRMS WITH EXPORT POSSIBILITIES TO OPEC COUNTRIES AND BELGIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER NON-BELGIAN MULTINATIONALS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

3. LEONARD SAID THAT THE POLITICAL/ECONOMIC PORTION OF THE MEETING (JANUARY 24 UNDER FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE) IS CONCEIVED AS A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION RATHER THAN DISCUSSION OF A PREDETERMINED FIRM AGENDA. TOPICS CERTAIN TO BE DISCUSSED, HOWEVER, INCLUDE ANALYSIS OF THE MEANING OF THE SPLIT DECISION ON PRICE INCREASES, LIKELIHOOD OF INCREASES IN AID BY OPEC COUNTRIES TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED OR MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES, AND PROSPECTS FOR THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE (CIEC). NO SPECIFIC BELGIAN INITIATIVES WILL BE ON THE TABLE FOR APPROVAL, BUT LEONARD THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT SOME "INTERESTING" RESULTS MIGHT OCCUR. RENNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009